

**Claims**

2. A method according to claim 15 wherein said disease is hypercholesterolemic atherosclerosis.
3. A method according to claim 15 wherein said disease is diabetes type I or type II.
4. A method according to claim 15 wherein said condition is ischemic heart disease.
5. A method according to claim 15 wherein said condition is volume or pressure overload heart failure.
6. A method according to claim 15 wherein said condition is the prevention of myocardial injury during open heart surgery.
7. A method according to claim 15 wherein said condition is the prevention of restenosis following percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA).
8. A method according to claim 15 wherein said condition is hemorrhagic or endotoxic shock.
9. A method according to claim 15 wherein said condition is ageing.
10. A method according to claim 15 wherein said disease is inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis).
11. A method according to claim 15 wherein said disease is Parkinson's disease.
12. A method according to claim 15 wherein said disease is rheumatoid arthritis.
13. A method according to claim 15 wherein said disease is stroke.

15. A method of treatment of a disease or a condition selected from the group consisting of hypercholesterolemic atherosclerosis, diabetes type I or type II, ischemic heart disease, volume or pressure overload heart failure, prevention of myocardial injury during open heart surgery, prevention of restenosis following percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA), hemorrhagic or endotoxic shock, ageing, inflammatory bowel disease, Parkinson's disease, rheumatoid arthritis and stroke, which comprises administering to a patient an effective amount of a secoisolariciresinol diglucoside (SDG) metabolite selected from the group consisting of secoisolariciresinol (SECO) enterodiol (ED) and enterolactone (EL).

- 2 16. A method according to claim 15 wherein the metabolites are used at a purity of at least 90%.